

**FIRST PARISH BROOKLINE
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
May 5, 2014**

Parish Committee Members Present: Steve Davis, Ann Gilmore, Stacey Raczek, Ryan Kim, Ann Dinsmoor, Greg Buckland, Anya Thomas, Ann Congleton and Jake Walters.

Others Present: Rev. James Sherblom, Sean Neil-Barron and Sue Andrews.

Minutes: The April, 2014 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Minister's report: Rev. Jim gave address the second minister search and advised that the candidate recommended by the search committee accepted a full time position as head minister at another U.U. Church. Rev. Jim indicated that the runner up candidate had withdrawn from consideration due to a move to another state. It is unclear if the Search Committee will remain intact and begin its work again next year or if changes to the committee will take place, but there will be another search for a second minister. Rev. Jim indicated that our current 2nd minister Maria Christina is interested in staying on for a second year and asked the P.C. for its approval. After a brief discussion a motion was made to hire Maria Christina for another church year and that it was so voted by an 8-1 margin. Rev. Jim then asked the Parish Committee to name three new member to the Leadership Development Committee. After a full discussion of the members willing to serve, it was voted to ask Mark Reynolds, Tara Washburn and Margie Beal to serve on the Leadership Development Committee

Annual Canvas Report: Sue Andrews, co-chair of the Canvas Committee gave an analysis of the canvas results to date. Sue's best estimate given the current data is that our pledges will result in income of \$420,000.00. Sue reported that 48% of households (numbering 63), increased their pledge. 40% of households stayed the same and 12% decreased (15 households) their pledge. Sue went on to say that we lost 14 pledging units and gained 10 this past year. Sue added that a number of the lost pledges were members who moved away. Sum made a point of saying that the testimonials of the PC members made a difference in pledges. Sue closed her remarks by saying that 3% of the congregation accounts for ½ of our pledges and we as a congregation need to reach out to the 40% who have not increased pledges to avoid stagnation.

Budget: The committee again reviewed and discussed the new budget and unanimously voted to recommend approval at Annual meeting. Ryan agreed to present the budget at annual meeting.

Treasurer: Ryan remarked that pledges this year have exceeded past years but cautioned that other sources of revenue – Sunday collection, fund raisers and rentals, are all down. Ryan suggested the following questions be considered next year – ownership of the budget, should there be a finance council, and should the Parish Committee sponsor revenue generation and cost management.

Sean Neil Baron: The Parish Committee took a few minutes to thank and recognize the contributions Sean has made this year. His review of our By-Laws and recommended changes were an invaluable help to First Parish. The committee as a whole and its individual members all expressed their thanks to Sean for his excellent work.

There being no other business it was unanimously voted to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted

Jake Walters, Clerk